

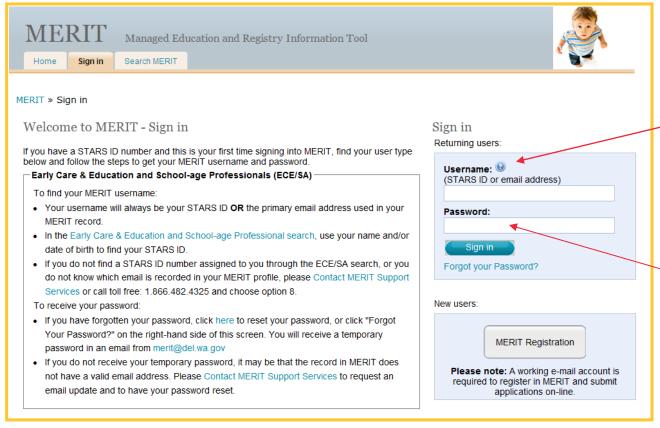
Early Achievers Application for Level 2 – The Step-by-Step Guide

Nine easy steps to complete and submit your Early Achievers Application for Level 2 in MERIT

The Managed Education and Registry Information Tool (MERIT) is operated by the Washington State Department of Early Learning



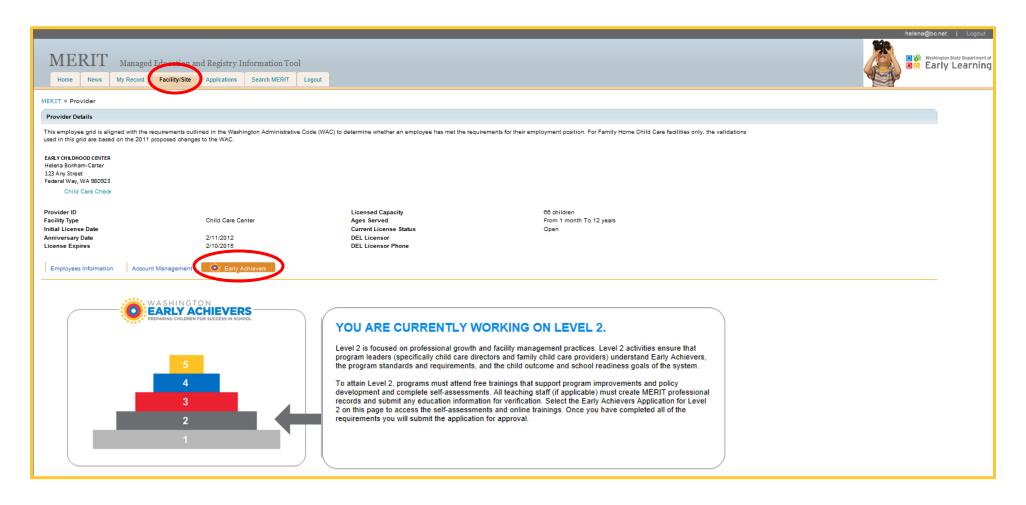
Step 1: Log into your MERIT account at merit.del.wa.gov



To find your username and password:

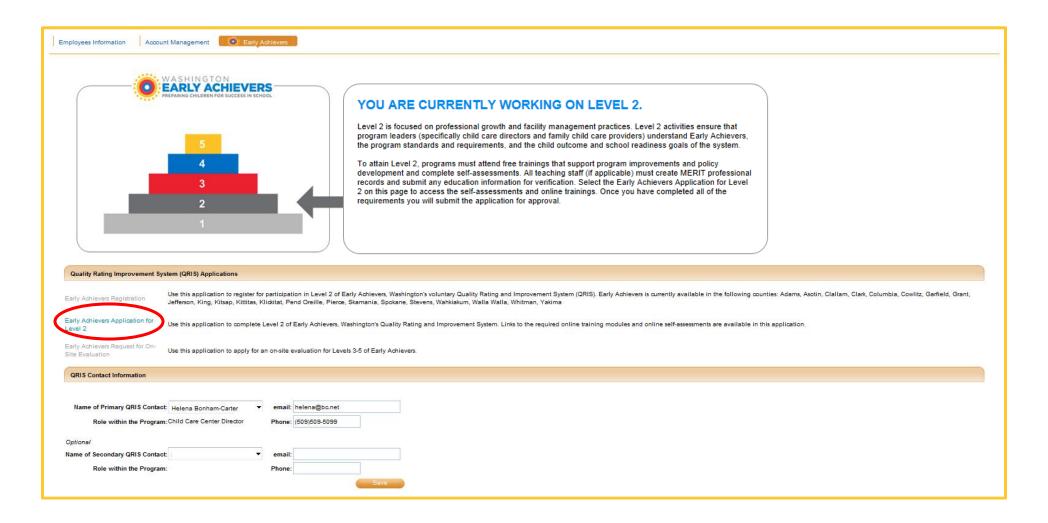
- A. Username: Your username will always be either your STARS ID or the primary e-mail address recorded in your MERIT record.
- **B. Password**: If you have forgotten your password, you may reset it. To do this, click on "Forgot Your Password?" and follow the instructions.

Step 2: Accessing the Early Achievers Sub Tab



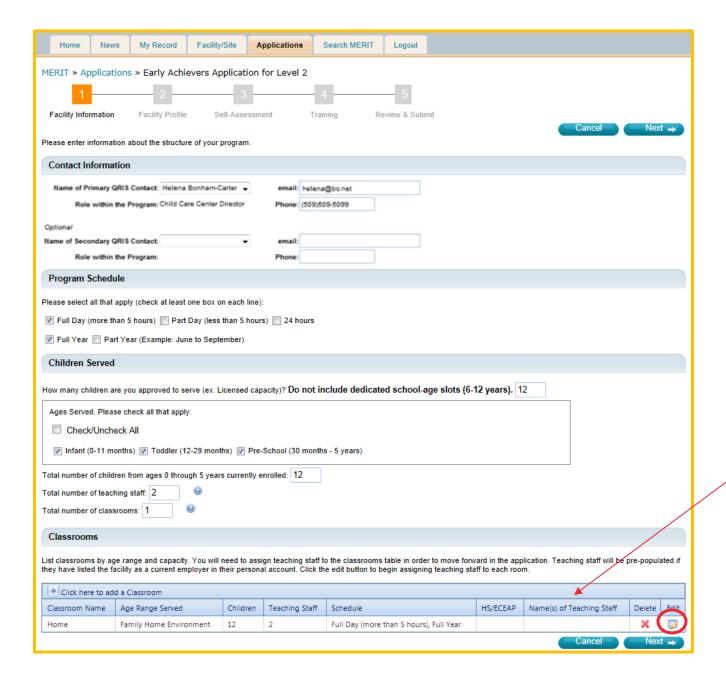
After you have submitted your Early Achievers Registration application you will be taken back to the sub tab for Early Achievers.

Step 2: Accessing the Early Achievers Sub Tab (continued)



Click on the blue highlighted link *Early Achievers Application for Level 2*.

Step 3: Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Facility Information



Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Step 1: Facility Information.

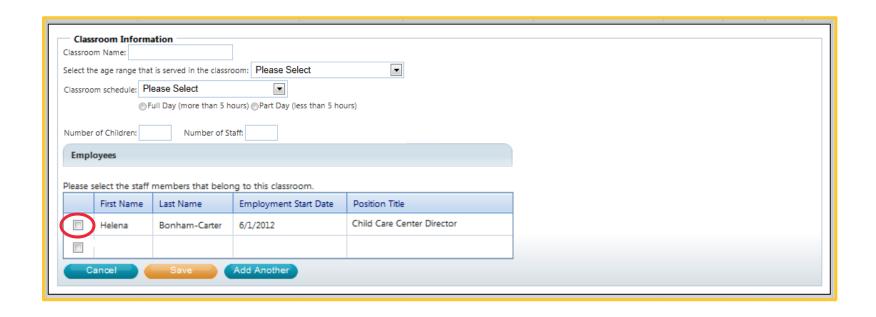
Your information will auto-fill from your Early Achievers Registration application. Please make updates if any of the information has changed.

If your facility/site has Head Start/ECEAP slot numbers, those slots will auto-fill with numbers from the ELMS database. Those fields will **not** be editable.

You will need to assign teaching staff to the classroom table in order to move forward in the application. Under the "Classrooms" heading, click the edit icon and assign teaching staff to the correct classrooms.

(See page 6 for detailed instructions.)

Step 3: Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Facility Information (continued)



Teaching staff will be pre-populated if they have listed the facility/site as a current employer in their personal MERIT account.

Use the check box to assign teaching staff to their primary classroom. The number of staff assigned must match the number of staff you indicate in the field box above the table.

Once you have assigned staff you can select "Add Another" to move to the next classroom, or "Save" if you are finished and ready to be taken back to Step 1: Facility Information where you can click "Next" to continue to Step 2: Facility Profile.

Step 4: Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Facility Profile

MERIT » Applications » Early Achievers Application for Level 2					
1	2	3	4	5	
Facility Information	Facility Profile	Self-Assessment	Training	Review & Submit	
				← Back Cancel	Next →
Respond to the following questions about facility management practices. There is not a "right" answer, respond honestly about your program practices. If you have written program policy, share the policy here.					
Facility Profile					
Why are you interested in participating in Early Achievers and how have you prepared your program to begin the quality improvement process?					
Response must be a minimum of 100 characters. Not to exceed 5,000 characters.					
			*		
			*		
What is your policy for including children with special needs in your program?					
Response must be a minimum of 100 characters. Not to exceed 5,000 characters.					
			~		
What measures does your program take to support children from diverse backgrounds?					
Response must be a minimum of 100 characters. Not to exceed 5,000 characters.					
			*		
			~		
Tell us how your program supports the professional development of your staff. For FCC providers, tell us how you pursue professional development.					
Response must be a minimum	of 100 characters. Not to	exceed 5,000 characters.	_		
			_		
				← Back Cancel	Next →

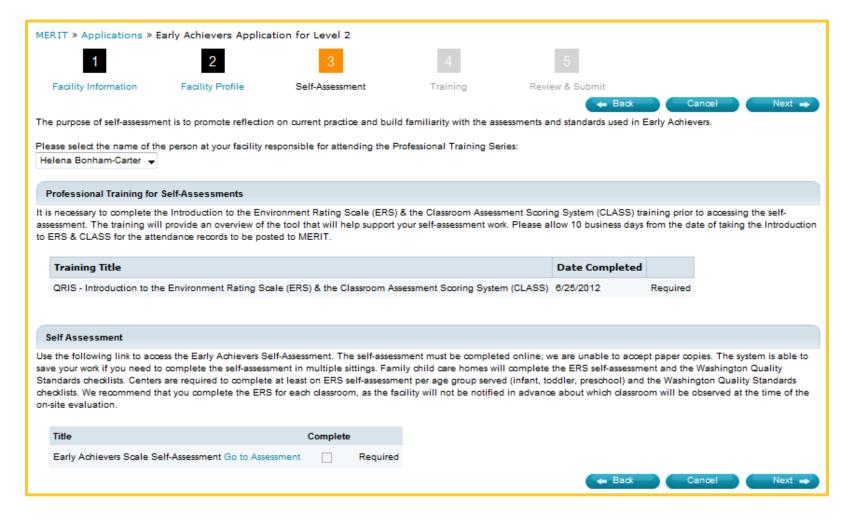
Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Step 2: Facility Profile.

Respond to the following questions about management practices. There is not a "right answer." If you have a written program policy, share the policy here.

*Please note as a security feature
MERIT automatically logs out after
60 minutes of inactivity. It is
suggested that you write your
Facility Profile responses for the
Early Achievers Application for Level
2 in a Word document and then
copy/paste them into the application
when they are finished to avoid
losing your work.*

Once you are done click "Next."

Step 5: Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Self-Assessment

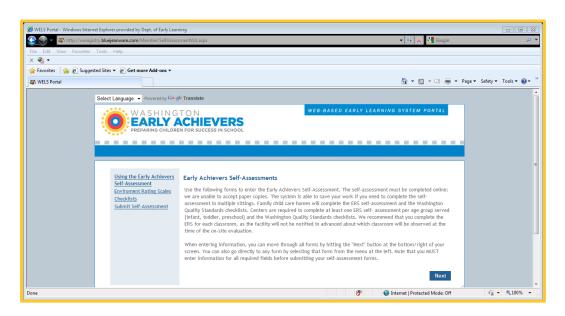


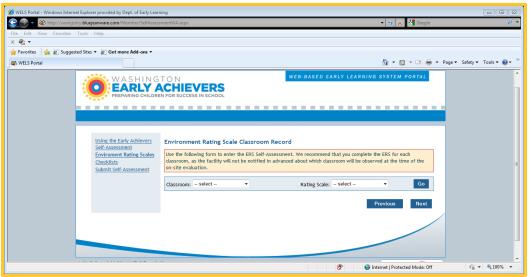
Please select the name of the person responsible for attending the Professional Training Series from the drop-down menu at the top of the screen. You may click on the training titled, "Introduction to Environment Rating Scale (ERS) & the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)" and the link will take you to the training module.

You may also access the three online training modules by going to http://www.wachildcaretraining.com/

Once your completion of the training module is documented, you will have access to the blue highlighted link, "Go to Assessment."

Step 6: Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Self-Assessment (continued)





The "Go to Assessment" link will take you to this screen. Please read over the instructions and click "Next" to begin.

Select the classroom you would like to complete a self-assessment for.

Select the rating scale associated with the age group of the classroom you are completing the self-assessment for.

ITERS = Infants and Toddlers (centers only)

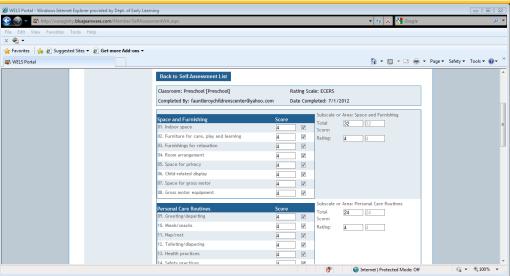
ECERS = Preschool (centers only)

FCCERS = Family Home

When entering information, you can move through all forms by hitting the "Next" button at the bottom/right of your screen.

Step 6: Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Self-Assessment (continued)



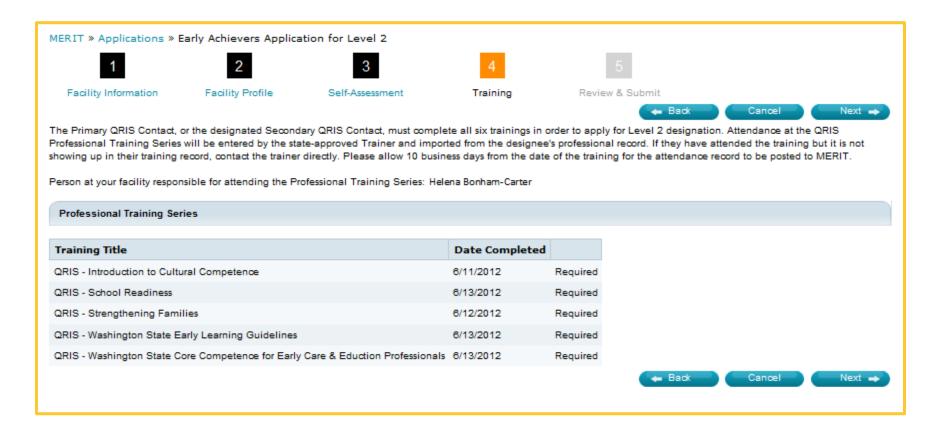


Once you have completed (at minimum) one selfassessment for each age group you serve (centers) or one for a family home environment please complete the Washington Quality Standards Checklist. Be sure to click on the "Save" button when you complete each section before you move to the next checklist.

Note that you must enter information for all required fields before submitting your self-assessment forms.

Once you have completed the checklist click the button, "Back to MERIT website."

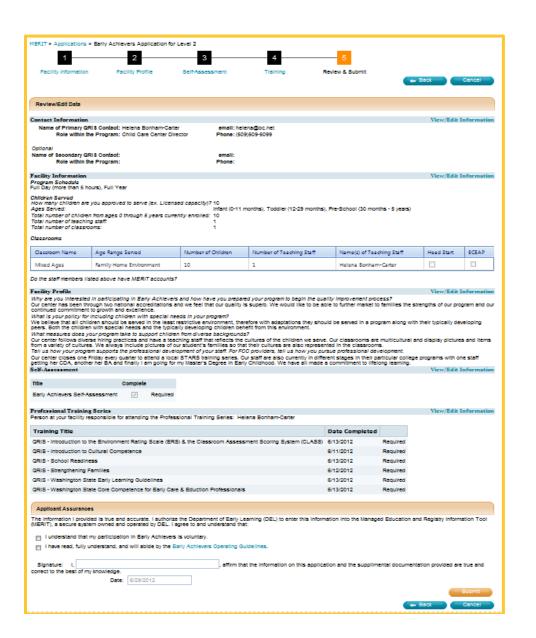
Step 7: Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Training



As you are completing the required trainings your attendance will be logged by the instructor. You will not be able to move to the next screen until all training attendance has been entered. You may click on the class name for the two online trainings and the link will take you to the module.

You may also access the three online training modules by going to http://www.wachildcaretraining.com/

Step 8: Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Review & Submit



In the Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Step 5: Review & Submit, please review your answers and ensure that the information is correct.

After you have reviewed your application you will be asked to complete the applicant assurances box.

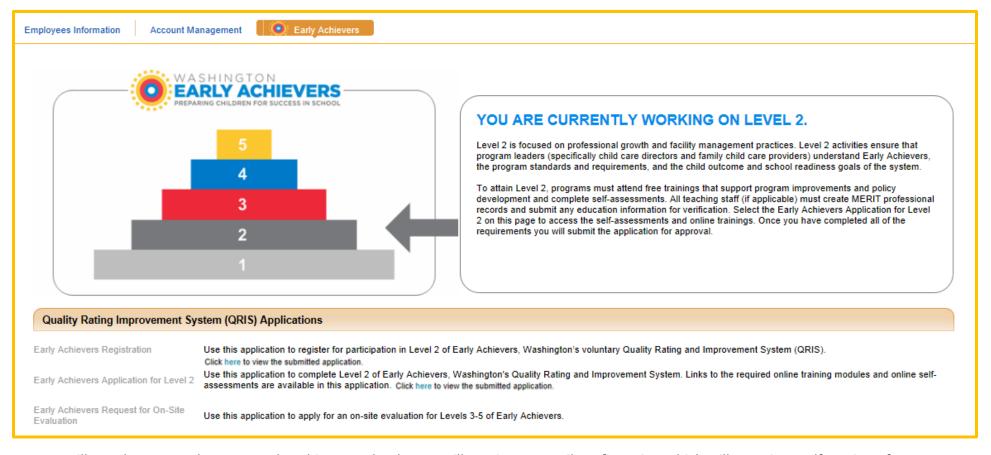
It will ask you:

- □ I understand that my participation in Early Achievers is voluntary.
- □ I have read, fully understand, and will abide by the Early Achievers Operating Guidelines.

As a signature it will ask you to type in your first and last names as they appear in MERIT. The system will auto-fill with today's date.

Then click "Submit."

Step 9: Early Achievers Application for Level 2, Confirmation



You will now be returned to your Early Achievers sub tab. You will receive an email confirmation which will contain a .pdf version of your submitted Early Achievers Application for Level 2 for your records. Your application materials will be reviewed by QRIS staff and you will receive another email confirmation once a decision has been reached.

After your Early Achievers Application for Level 2 is approved by DEL, you will have access to the Early Achievers Request for On-Site Evaluation application under the Facility/Site tab, Early Achievers sub tab. You may complete the Early Achievers Request for On-Site Evaluation when you feel your facility is ready to be rated. For more information about onsite evaluation or Level 2 designation, please refer to the Early Achievers

Operating Guidelines or contact your Technical Assistance specialist.